

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 11-13, 18 and 22-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 11 and 22 are amended to recite three display devices; that the display area of a first one of the display devices surrounds the display areas of two other display devices; and that the display areas of the two other display devices are spaced apart with a portion of the display area of the first display device interposed therebetween. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in prior claims 7-9 and 19-21. Claim 7 is amended to remove the features added to the independent claims. Claims 6, 8-10, 14-17, 19-21 and 26-27 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as they add dependent claim features into independent claims; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Richer during the July 23, 2009 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 1-5, 7, 11-13, 16-18 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,189 to Trueblood in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,333,750 to Odryna et al. (Odryna) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,241 to Firester et al. (Firester); and (2) rejects claims 6, 8-10, 14-15, 19-20 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Trueblood in view of Odryna and Firester, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,812,907 to Gennetten et al. (Gennetten). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

As agreed during the personal interview, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose a first display area surrounding second and third display areas, wherein the second and third display areas are spaced apart with a portion of the first display area interposed therebetween as recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 22.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jonathan H. Backenstose
Registration No. 47,399

JAO:JHB/mab

Date: July 29, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
